



Winsford Urban District Council

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st December, 1949



# WINSFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Health Report for 1949

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Winsford Urban District Council.*

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1949.

### SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,094 acres
Population—Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,100
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1949 including squatters' huts, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,639
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£51,676
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£201

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births ( Legitimate ( Illegitimate	216 13	105 7	111) 6)	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion, 18.92
Still Births ( Legitimate ( Illegitimate	9 2	8 1	1) 1)	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) 45.83
Deaths	155	75	80	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion, 12.81 After adjustment by the Comparability Factor, 13.19

Deaths from puerperal causes (Heading 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	—	—
No. 30 Other Maternal Causes ...	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	—	—
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Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	34.93
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	37.03
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live birth ...	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	19
„ „ Measles (all ages) ... ..	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	—

The following table compares the main statistics for 1949 with the years 1939-1948 :—

	Population.	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	No of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tuber- culosis
1939 ...	11,170	16.47	14.06	65.21	12	7
1940 ...	11,340	16.04	15.60	60.43	25	4
1941 ...	11,580	15.37	11.39	48.38	17	5
1942 ...	11,230	18.78	13.53	37.91	17	5
1943 ...	10 850	16.95	13.82	21.73	20	5
1944 ...	10,760	17.47	14.21	79.78	16	9
1945 ...	10,720	16.13	14.64	17.34	16	6
1946 ...	11,300	20.00	11.50	22.12	10	6
1947 ...	11,640	22.85	14.26	33.83	22	6
1948 ...	12,050	19.33	13.19	21.45	23	5
1949 ...	12,100	18.92	12.81	34.93	19	3

### CAUSES OF DEATH—1949.

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	3	3
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases ...	—	—	—
9. Influenza ...	—	3	3
10. Measles ...	—	—	—
11. Ac : Polio-myel : & Polio-enceph ...	—	—	—
12. Ac : inf : enceph ...	1	—	1

13.	Cancer of B: cav: & oesoph (M) uterus (F) ...	—	4	4
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum...	2	3	5
15.	Cancer of Breast ...	—	1	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites ...	3	6	9
17.	Diabetes ...	—	1	1
18.	Intr-cran: vasc: lesions ...	9	10	19
19.	Heart Diseases ...	33	21	54
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	2	1	3
21.	Bronchitis ...	3	5	8
22.	Pneumonia ...	3	1	4
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases ...	2	3	5
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	2	—	2
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis ...	—	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis ...	1	2	3
29.	Puerperal & post-abortion: Sepsis ...	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes ...	—	—	—
31.	Premature Births ...	1	1	2
32.	Congenital Debility & Malformations ...	1	3	4
33.	Suicide ...	1	—	1
34.	Road Traffic Accidents ...	1	—	1
35.	Other Violent Causes ...	—	1	1
36.	All other Causes ...	10	10	20
Totals ...		75	80	155

## SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### (A) Provided by the District Council.

#### (1) Staff.

W. S. Slater, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

(Services shared with the other three Mid-Cheshire Districts and since July 5th, 1948, with the County Council as Divisional M.O. and Regional Hospital Board as Medical Superintendent of Davenham Fever Hospital).

Sister I. D. Rogerson.  
Trained Nurse (part-time).  
(Scabies and Diphtheria Immunisation).

(Services share with the other three Mid-Cheshire Districts and since July 5th, 1948, with the County Council).



Clerical Staff.	(Services shared with the other three Mid-Cheshire Districts).
One person (whole-time).	
W. W. White, C.R.S.I., C.M.I., M.S.I.A.	(Winsford Urban District Council only).
Whole-time Sanitary Inspector and Meat Inspector.	
T. H. Rogerson, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.	—ditto—
Additional Sanitary Inspector.	
J. G. Roberts.	—ditto—
Junior Assistant to Sanitary Inspector (unqualified).	

## **(2) LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

The Public Health Laboratory Service now undertakes the examination of water, milk and ice cream supplies and pathological specimens of all descriptions, free of charge to the Winsford Urban District Council. This service proved adequate during the year.

**(3)** Details of the other Health Services, e.g., Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Winsford Urban Council are recorded later in this report.

### **(B) Davenham Isolation Hospital.**

This hospital, which is now the responsibility of the North and Mid-Cheshire Hospital Management Committee working under the Manchester Regional Hospital Board, served adequately the needs of the District Council and admitted 36 Winsford Urban patients during 1949.

### **(C) Provided by the County Council.**

The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Urban Area under the following Services: School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g., Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Venereal Diseases, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services.

### **(D) Provided by the Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council).**

These are for the most part "personal" Services and are therefore set out in some detail for the general information of the Members.

## **(1) VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.**

### **(a) Diphtheria Immunisation.**

The arrangements which before the 5th July, 1948, had

proved reasonably satisfactory and for which the County District Councils were then responsible, continued. The immunisation treatment has therefore been given at :—

- (1) Sessions held monthly at the major Child Welfare Centres in the District and at Schools.
- (2) At the patient's home or doctor's surgeries.

Individual letters of invitations are sent out to the parents of children just before their first birthday; this is followed up later with letters advising a reinforcement injection for children about to enter school.

Details of the work done in the Winsford Urban District and the numbers immunised are set out later in the report.

### **(b) Vaccination.**

Vaccination being no longer compulsory, we now depend on the receipt from General Practitioners of Record Cards for information of the vaccination work being carried out in the area.

The number of Record Cards received are set out later in the report.

### **(c) Preventive Inoculation against Whooping Cough.**

The Divisional Committee during the year decided to make available Whooping Cough Vaccine for use by the local doctors when requested. At the same time it was decided not to publicise unduly or stress the value of the treatment, because of the uncertainty of the vaccine as an immunisation agent. The extent to which this free issue of Whooping Cough Vaccine has been used in Winsford is recorded later in the report.

## **(2) AMBULANCE SERVICE.**

This Service has greatly increased since 5th July, 1948. The position regarding staff and vehicles at the end of 1949 to serve Mid-Cheshire as a whole, is set out below :—

Staff (whole or part-time)	...	...	...	13
Vehicles	...	...	...	9

The Mid-Cheshire Ambulance Depot is situated at Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich.

Frequent use has been made of the train service for the long distance transport of patients. The courtesy, co-operation and efficiency displayed by British Railways were outstanding.

## **(3) PREVENTION OF ILLNESS AND AFTER-CARE.**

A stock of After-Care equipment has been built up consisting of such articles as: Sputum Mugs, Steam Kettles, Assorted Crutches, Backrests, Bath Chairs, Air Beds, etc., etc. This equipment is stored both at Hartford Hill Ambulance Depot and at Whitehall. Larger items such as mattresses, spinal carriages, etc., are available to us from the County Stores at Winsford and these have been drawn upon as required.



The Divisional Committee in particular have considered methods of dealing with the Care and After-Care of Tuberculosis patients. Their work has included the following :—

- (1) The co-ordination needed with the local Housing Authorities to secure the re-housing of persons suffering from Tuberculosis and who cannot under their present circumstances be isolated.
- (2) The provision of Chalets in exceptional cases.
- (3) The provision of Domestic Helps.
- (4) The “ rounding-up ” of contacts for examination by the Chest Physicians.

#### **(4) DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.**

This Service from very small beginnings has now grown to considerable proportions and at the time of writing a number of local households are receiving domestic assistance varying from a few hours to 44 hours per week. It is evident that this branch of the Service is much appreciated. Numerous letters of thanks have been received. A large number of the families assisted are receiving Domestic Help indefinitely. These are usually elderly and infirm persons who with some regular domestic help are able to carry on living at home. Without such assistance there seems little doubt that they would need Institutional admission.

Where assessments according to the County scale have been likely to cause hardship they have been reduced with the authority of the Committee.

### **SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

#### **Water.**

The water services are now under the control of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board and mains extensions, etc., are carried out by the Board.

During the course of the year 10 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory by the Council's Staff for Bacteriological Examinations.

These samples covered supplies at Church House Farm; Keepers Cottage, Whitegate; Well at Bark House, Catsclough; Knights Grange Farm and Petty Pool Farm, Whitegate. All were reported upon as “ unsatisfactory for domestic purposes.” Warning letters were sent to the Owners and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was informed.

In addition to the above, copies of 49 reports on the Town's Supply have been furnished to me by the Engineer and Manager of the Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board. All these samples were satisfactory.



All but 4 of the 3,639 houses in the Urban District are supplied from Public Mains and there are no standpipes in the area.

**Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

I am indebted to Mr. P. Heaton, the Surveyor and Engineer of the Council, for the following statement under this heading :

“ There have been further sewer extensions during the year to provide for a further 180 houses on the Dene Estate. The drainage schemes generally in the town are now on the separate system thus relieving existing sewage works from storm water.

A sewerage scheme including outfall works has been prepared for the Whitegate area and this will provide not only for the drainage of existing properties, but for a proposed new housing development of a special character. Estimated cost of sewerage system is £6,000.

Sewerage improvements are still needed in

- (a) Littler Lane area.
- (b) Swanlow South area.

The position regarding capital expenditure prevents these problems being dealt with.”

**Closet Accommodation.**

A comprehensive survey of domestic sanitary accommodation was carried out during the early part of the year and all premises not on the water carriage system were scheduled as follows :—

CATEGORY 1.

Premises that have a sufficient water supply laid on and are already connected to the Council’s sewers that discharge to recognised treatment beds and aeration filters ... .. 50

CATEGORY 2.

Premises which have a sufficient water supply laid on but no drainage to the Council’s sewers although there is one within a reasonable distance ... .. 5

CATEGORY 3.

Premises which have a sufficient water supply laid on, but require further investigation as to whether or not the present drainage system is at too low a level to be connected to a Council sewer ... .. 29

CATEGORY 4.

Premises that have a sufficient water supply laid on and are already connected to the Council’s sewers that discharge to recognised treatment beds and aeration filters, but have low standard of fitness and are in danger of early condemnation unless the owners carry out excessive structural alterations to the properties ... .. 6

CATEGORY 5.

Premises that have a sufficient water supply laid on and are already connected to the Council's sewers which do not discharge into recognised treatment beds and aeration filters, but discharge into a river, pool, stream or ditch ... .. 84

CATEGORY 6.

Premises which have a sufficient water supply laid on but have no Council sewer within a reasonable distance of the properties ... .. 150

CATEGORY 7.

Premises that have not a sufficient water supply laid on and have not a sewer available within a reasonable distance of the premises ... .. 4

Total premises ... 328

As a result of this survey Statutory Notices were authorised by the Council to be served under Sections 44 and 47, only on the 50 properties in Category 1. The remainder of the properties concerned must largely wait until a proper sewerage system is installed.

In this connection the Council, along with the County Council, agreed to share the cost in the services of a Consultant Engineer to advise on a sewage scheme for the area.

The progress of the work of converting pail and privy closets during the year can be summarised as follows :—

- I. Total number of pails and privies requiring conversion at the commencement of the year ... .. 332
- II. Total number of Statutory Notices served during the year ... .. 24
- III. Total number of conversions completed during the year ... .. 40
- IV. Total number of conversions for which Statutory Notices have been served during the year, and upon which work has commenced, or is expected to commence shortly ... .. 19
- V. Total number of pails and privies requiring conversion at the close of the year ... .. 292

**Recreational Fields and Open Spaces.**

On the subject of the further provision of Recreational Fields and Open Spaces the Engineer reports :—

- “ The Council have decided
  - (a) To provide five playing fields in the area.

- (b) To develop a new recreational area on the Dene Estate using the existing cricket ground as a nucleus "

### **Canal Boats.**

No canal boats are now registered with the Council. Five inspections have been made in regard to minor repairs which were forthwith remedied.

### **Destruction of Rats and Mice.**

This service is administered through the Council Surveyor's Department.

### **Common Lodging Houses.**

There are none in the District.

### **Licensed Camping Sites.**

There are three licensed camping sites within the District. Only one dwelling is accommodated on each of two of these sites, whilst the third is considerably larger in area and is controlled by a siting plan approved by the Council. This last mentioned site is approximately  $2\frac{1}{4}$  acres but only half of this area is at present developed; it is situated off William Street near the River Weaver.

### **Swimming Baths.**

There are no privately owned swimming pools in the area.

The Council's Open Air Swimming Bath is still giving good public service. The plant has been thoroughly overhauled and new sand provided for the filters. The water's purification and chlorination is carefully watched.

Two bacteriological examinations were taken from this Swimming Bath and the Manchester Public Health Laboratory reported on them as follows:—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Result.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
28/6/49	Unsatisfactory.	"In its present condition this water cannot be considered satisfactory for a swimming bath."
7/7/49	Satisfactory.	—————

### **Schools in the Area.**

There are nine public schools including the Verdin Grammar School. Seven of these have satisfactory closet accommodation whilst the remaining two (Darnhall and Whitegate) have pails owing to no adequate sewage facilities being available.

All schools are supplied with a satisfactory mains water supply.



## Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

### *Statement of Inspections Made and Notices Issued.*

(Based upon a statement made by the Sanitary Inspector)

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of Service of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remaining in hand	Prosecutions	
						Instituted	Pending
1. Dwelling Houses (General Inspections) ... ..	406	2	49	42	9	—	—
2. Tents, Vans, Sheds ... ..	11	—	4	4	—	—	—
3. Privy Middens, Earth Closets, Peat Pails, Cesspool Privies ...	596	34	47	62	19	—	—
4. Cesspools ... ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. House Drainage ... ..	274	1	4	5	—	—	—
6. Ditches, Water Courses, etc. ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Offensive Accumulations ...	114	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Keeping of Animals ... ..	12	—	1	1	—	—	—
9. Offensive Trades ... ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Slaughter Houses (Public) ...	595	—	2	—	—	—	—
(Used by the Ministry of Food)							
"          " (Private) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other places where food is produced or sold ... ..	241	—	54	49	5	—	—
11. Dairies ... ..	50	—	46	46	—	—	—
Shippens ... ..	22	—	8	8	—	—	—
Milkshops ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Factories with mechanical Power	45	—	4	3	1	—	—
Factories without mechanical power ... ..	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of buildings)	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Outworkers' premises ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Ashbins ... ..	1081	49	136	183	2	—	—
14. Butchers Shops ... ..	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Overcrowding ... ..	5	—	1	1	—	—	—
16. Places of Amusement ... ..	12	—	1	1	—	—	—
17. Verminous Premises ... ..	57	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Water Closets ... ..	16	1	1	2	—	—	—
19. Fried Fish Shops ... ..	20	—	4	4	—	—	—
20. Water Supply ... ..	20	—	18	18	—	—	—
21. Shops ... ..	45	—	4	4	—	—	—
22. Miscellaneous ... ..	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
23. River Boats ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
24. Infectious Diseases and revisits	104	—	5	5	—	—	—
25. Interviews ... ..	280	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	4101	87	389	440	36	—	—



### Factories Inspection.

Premises	No. in Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	12	15	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	50	45	4	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ... ..	5	9	—	—
Totals ...	67	69	4	—

### Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ...	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:—					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	3	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to Outwork) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	4	3	—	—	—

## SECTION D. HOUSING.

During the year some 90 permanent houses were erected and tenanted which makes a total of 640 municipal houses in occupation at the end of 1949. These are sited as follows :—

Site	Houses constructed	
	Pre-war	Post-war
Grange Lane and Meadow Bank ... ..	56	—
Park Avenue ... ..	40	—
Gladstone Street, Woodford Lane and Moss Bank ...	50	—
Crook Lane ... ..	12	—
Seaton Street, Hewitt Drive and Beckett Avenue ...	36	—
Siddorn Street, Overway, Coronation Avenue, etc. ...	50	—
Kingsway Hill Street, Massey Avenue, and prefabricated bungalows ... ..	42	52
Dene Site ... ..	—	281
Greville Drive and Lodge Drive ... ..	—	20
Special Bungalow for Paraplegic Ex-Service man ...	—	1

One private house was converted into two flats.

### New Housing Sites Selected.

- (a) WHITEGATE—to accommodate 30 higher - income - group houses and 12 agricultural.
- (b) WHARTON—an area of about 24 acres to the East of Greville Drive.

There are no squatters' camps.

The table below outlines the main housing activities of the Council in administering the Housing and Public Health Acts :—

#### I.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... .. 234
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... .. 406
- (2) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. 5
- (3) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. 145

#### II.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	121
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### III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10, 12 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—					
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	87
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices	...	...	...	...	73
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	58
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	15
(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	Nil

## SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) Milk Supply.

During the year 26 samples of milk retailed in the area were submitted to the Laboratory for cleanliness tests with the following results :—

Grade.	Satisfactory.	Part Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Ungraded	1	—	2
Accredited	6	2	9
Tuberculin-Tested	2	—	—
Pasteurised	4	—	—

### Milk (Special Designation) Order.

The introduction of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, on the 1st October deprived the Council of the inspection and the registration of dairy farmers and dairy farms, and it is questionable whether the same control will now be exercised as previously existed over milk production, as samples taken during distribution cannot be followed up at the farm.

The Council are now only concerned with the registration of distributors of which there are five in the district holding the following licences :—

Licence to use the designation “ Tuberculin Tested ”	
milk bottled on the premises	1
Licence to bottle Pasteurised milk	1
Licence to sell bottled Pasteurised milk	1

### (b) Meat.

The following based upon a statement by the Meat Inspector



is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned during the year :—

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	1071	1629	1250	8441	14715
Number inspected ... ..	1071	1629	1250	8441	14715
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis :-</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	15	16	1	12
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	701	943	86	885	864
Percentage of the number in- spected, affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	65.73%	58.80%	8.16%	10.49%	5.87%
<i>Tuberculosis Only :-</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	9	—	—	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	195	492	—	—	1759
Percentage of the number in- spected, affected with Tuber- culosis ... ..	18.39%	30.75%	—	—	11.99%

16 Carcasses were examined in connection with the operation of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. The entire carcasses and organs of 2 were condemned, the remaining 14 were passed less any part carcase and offal which were surrendered.

In addition, the dressed carcasses of 393 cattle, 10 calves and 5 pigs were inspected, and a large quantity of frozen and tinned meat also passed through the Abattoir and was subjected to a cursory examination; approximately 1,000 tons of frozen meat and 40 tons of canned meat were received and distributed during the year.

### Slaughterhouses.

The C.W.S. Bacon Factory resumed killing on the 1st October after a period of seven years during which time the premises were devoted mainly to the manufacture of small goods.

14,498 pigs were killed during the last three months of the year.

This Factory functions as a self-contained unit being equipped with plants capable of dealing with all by-products.

Attached to these premises is a factory producing boot and shoe uppers, and a hatchery in which 60,000 birds, including ducks, turkeys and chickens were hatched during the year.

Four suspected cases of Anthrax were reported under the Anthrax Order, 1938, one of which was confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Particulars of this case



which occurred at the local Ministry of Food Abattoir are as follows :—

It is understood that a farmer instructed a butcher to bleed a beast on his farm which is situated in the Oakmere area of the Northwich Rural District, the carcase was then conveyed on an open cart to the Ministry of Food Abattoir in Weaver Street, Winsford, at noon on the 22nd September.

Apparently, this animal had been treated for staggers, and had been given an injection on the morning of the 22nd by a Veterinary Surgeon employed by the farmer.

Dressing of the carcase had commenced a few minutes before the Meat Inspector arrived at the abattoir, he immediately suspended further dressing and gave instructions for the case to be notified as a suspected Anthrax, his diagnosis being confirmed before 2 p.m. on the same day.

The Police superintended the destruction of the deceased carcase and organs which were buried in 15 cwts. of quick lime. The Abattoir premises were disinfected.

**(c) Other Foods.**

Under the "Unsound Food Provisions," the under-mentioned articles of food were found to be unfit for consumption and condemned :—

- 418 lbs. 12 ozs. Tinned Corned Beef.
- 14 lbs. 10 ozs. Tinned Beans.
- 85 lbs. 10 ozs. Tinned Milk.
- 1 lb. Tinned Soap.
- 4 lbs. Tinned Tomato Juice.
- 27 lbs. 11 ozs. Tinned Tomatoes.
- 17 lbs.  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Tinned Date Pudding.
- 3 lbs. 8 ozs. Tinned Marmalade.
- 3 lbs. Cheese.
- 4 lbs. 3 ozs. Tinned Carrots.
- 3 lbs. Tinned Broth.
- 2 lbs. Tinned Veal Loaf.
- 1 lb. Tinned Meat Roll.
- 12 ozs. Tinned Luncheon Meat.
- 6 lbs. Tinned Fruit and Lemon Juice.
- 25 lbs. 12 ozs. Tinned Apple Sauce.
- 10 lbs. 9 ozs. Tinned Pears.
- 31 lbs. 6 ozs. Tinned Grapes.
- 188 lbs. Fish.
- 3 lbs. 4 ozs. Tinned Tongue.
- 32 lbs. 15 ozs. Tinned Peas.
- 192 lbs. Tinned Orange Juice.
- 17 lbs. 8 ozs. Bottled Plums.
- 14 ozs. Tinned Sardines.
- 1 lb. 14 ozs. Tinned Peaches.
- 2 lbs. Tinned Whalemeat Steak.

12 lbs. 11 ozs. Tinned Minced Beef Loaf.  
 2 lbs. Tinned Rhubarb.  
 2 lbs. Tinned Jam.  
 2 lbs 8 ozs. Tinned Brisling.  
 4 lbs. Tinned Danish Pork.  
 1 lb. Tinned Pork Sausage.

Total weight—10 *cwts.* 0 *qrs.* 2 *lbs.* 7½ *ozs.*

Inspection of food preparing premises, e.g., prepared meats, fried fish, etc., and all other premises where food is sold to the public was carried out under the powers of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Printed propaganda for the furtherance of hygiene at these premises was distributed during the inspections, when it was endeavoured to impress upon the food handlers the necessity to take full hygienic precautions during the handling, storage and processing of food intended for consumption by the general public.

Contraventions of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were remedied after service of informal notices and without resorting to further proceedings.

The position at the end of December, 1949, as to registered premises, was as follows :—

Registered premises for the sale of prepared meats, etc. ...	32
Registered premises for sale of fried fish ... ..	14
Registered premises for process of tripe dressing (Offensive Trade) ... ..	1
Registered premises for the manufacture and sale of ice cream ... ..	16

The production and sale of ice cream was kept under continual observation. Regular samples were submitted for bacteriological testing, premises were inspected as often as time permitted, and vendors were advised on the methods of cleansing and sterilization of equipment and utensils.

Twenty-two samples of ice cream were submitted to the Laboratory during the year for the Methylene Blue Reduction Test. Results were as follows :—

Provisional Grade 1	—	12 samples
„ „ 2	—	2 „
„ „ 3	—	5 „
„ „ 4	—	3 „

In addition the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Winsford Urban District during the year 1949 :—

Name of Sample.	Number Obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Butter ... ..	1	
Cheese ... ..	1	
Cooking Fat ... ..	1	
Cooking Oil ... ..	1	
Fish Paste ... ..	1	
Margarine ... ..	1	
Meat Soup ... ..	1	
Milk ... ..	18	6
Milk—Condensed ...	1	
Rum ... ..	1	
Sausages—Beef ... ..	1	
Sweets ... ..	1	
Tomato Ketchup ... ..	1	
Whisky ... ..	3	1
	<hr/> 33 <hr/>	<hr/> 7 <hr/>

**Particulars of samples not up to standard:—**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>Analysis.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
1.	Milk	10% deficient in fat.	Retail sale from a churn. Seller Cautioned.
2.	„	3.76% of extraneous water and 15.1% deficient in fat.	Retail sale of bottle. No action in view of corresponding follow up sample No. 3.
3.	„	2.78% of extraneous water and 19.3% deficient in fat.	Taken in course of delivery from farmer. to retailer of No. 2. Farmer was prosecu- ted and fined £10 10s. and £2 2s. costs. At the same court the farmer prosecuted the retailer under Section 83 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, but the case was dismissed and £4 4s. costs were awarded to the retailer.
4.	„	6.6% deficient in fat.	Retail sale. Seller cautioned.



5.                      42% deficient in fat.    A farmer-retailer sold this sample from a churn with a tap at the bottom. Seller prosecuted and fined £10 and £3 3s. costs.
- 6                      13.3% deficient in fat.    Retail sale of bottle. Seller cautioned.
- 7       Whisky    5.7% of excess water.    Purchase of two double glasses of whisky at Hotel a fortnight before Christmas. Licensee prosecuted and fined £5 and £1 1s. costs.

## SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(1) The prevalence of Infectious Diseases, apart from Measles and Acute Poliomyelitis was low, as may be gathered from the following table :—

### Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1949.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	25	25	—
Measles .. .. .	46	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	8	—	—
Pneumonia ... .. .	3	1	—
Erysipelas ... .. .	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis ... .. .	14	5	—
Polioencephalitis ... ..	1	1	—

As to the incidence of Poliomyelitis, of the 14 cases notified, 4 were admitted to Davenham Isolation Hospital, 3 of which were later transferred to Macclesfield, 1 was admitted to a Manchester Hospital, and the remaining 9 were mild abortive cases causing no apparent after-disability.

The one case of Polioencephalitis was admitted direct to a Manchester Hospital.

### (2) Tuberculosis.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis :—



## Tuberculosis.

### *New Cases and Mortality during 1949.*

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 - 5 years ... ..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 - 15 „ ... ..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 - 25 „ ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	3	...	...
25 - 35 „ ... ..	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 - 45 „ ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 - 55 „ ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 - 65 „ ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Totals ... ..	3	4	...	...	...	3	...	...

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years :—

1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.
64	72	73	83	97	103	93	96	90	92	93

### (3) Diphtheria Immunisation.

No. of children who have completed treatment during  
1949 ... .. 132

### (4) Vaccinations.

No. of children who have been vaccinated during  
1949 ... .. 8

### (5) Immunisation against Whooping Cough.

No. of children who have been treated during 1949 17

### (6) Scabies and Verminous Infestation.

The arrangements made in 1942 through the Joint M.O.D. Committee for the treatment of Scabies and Pediculosis patients continued satisfactorily during 1949.

The steady reduction in the incidence of Scabies since 1942 can be gathered from the following :—

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Cases of Scabies ...	258	195	115	108	73	22	6	—
Cases of Pediculosis	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	287	196	118	108	73	22	6	—
Number of House- holds involved ...	110	85	54	45	26	9	3	—

## (7) Disinfection of Premises.

The disinfection of 50 premises was carried out during the year as follows :—

For Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection of bedding)	... ..	10 houses
For Infectious Disease	... ..	40 „

The disinfestation of 13 premises was carried out in connection with vermin. 11 houses were treated—7 for cockroaches and 4 for bugs.

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*August, 1950.*





